

MOTOR VOTER NEWS



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

What's up! (with the Presidential Primary)

Presidential primaries are elections in which each major party's voters select delegates to their national nominating conventions. There, the delegates select their parties' candidates for the presidential election. Primaries are not the only method of choosing party delegates, however.

The major political parties in some states – Iowa being the most well-known – use “caucuses” to pick their convention delegates. In our case, the state Democratic Party leadership met in Bellingham on April 28th and expressed their preference for the “caucus” method of selecting their party's nominees. The Republican Party leadership is expected to meet in early June to discuss their strategy. Meanwhile, some key state officials charged with setting the date for a statewide presidential primary will meet on June 11. So for now, the default date of our presidential primary is May 27, 2008.

Elections Update

The last spring, 2007 “special” election was held on Tuesday, May 15th. Elections were held in 17 counties in the state, with as many as 375,000 voters voting on local issues and candidates. The results of those elections will be certified on May 30th.

The next election will be the statewide primary on August 21st. the cutoff for registration is July 21st. This will be the first time that our state's primary will occur in August. The move of the primary from September to August gives voters more time to learn about the candidates and the issues that will appear on General Election ballots. This year's General Election is scheduled for November 6th.



May '07 Results

The Office of the Secretary of State was able to forward 3,071 voter registration forms and 636 electronic address change requests to county elections officials between April 30th and May 11th, thanks to the work of Department of Licensing agents.

As they did in February, the Union Street office in Seattle secured the #1 producer spot by submitting 201 forms. In addition, they had a better accuracy rate than 70% of the 64 offices that submitted forms. (More on “accuracy rates” in the next edition.) Like last month, the Bothell office was the #3 producer, and had a slightly better accuracy rate than Union Street. The Auburn office had a similar accuracy rate, and turned in 109 forms in two weeks, for 6th place.

Even though they averaged only five forms turned in, four offices had no motor voter errors in the two weeks. They are: Forks; Chelan; Moses Lake; Oroville.

Resources

For Voter Registration information, posters, and forms (including foreign language forms) visit:

www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx ,
or contact: Dave Motz, (360) 725-5786,
dmotz@secstate.wa.gov

Quote

We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.

- Thomas Jefferson